

Appl. No. 10/688,390
Amdt. dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2004

Docket No. 70288-020800

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:

a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and at least two corners;

a latch and a catch located near each corner, each said catch with deformable slot walls being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an enlarged head extending, located near each corner; wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch, and,

a straight connector with at least one latch and at least one catch, each said catch with deformable slot walls and each said latch with an enlarged head extending, whereby through which the latch of the first panel is snapped into the catch of the straight connector and the latch of the straight connector is snapped into the catch of the second panel,

through which said straight connector is a bridge between the panels.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each ~~connected to~~ having at least one of a latch or ~~and~~ catch,

each catch with deformable slot walls being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each latch with an enlarged head extending; wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and,

a straight connector with at least ~~one~~ two of a latch or and catch, each said catch with deformable slot walls and each said latch with an enlarged head extending, whereby through which each element is connected to the straight connector with a latch or catch of each element snapped into the corresponding latch or catch of the straight connector,

through which said straight connector is a bridge between the elements.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The snap together connection of claim 3 further comprising at least one ~~alignment~~ stop to limit sliding movement of at least one snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein each panel is substantially the same size and shape.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The system of claim 1 wherein at least one panel is not substantially the same size and shape as the other ~~panels~~ panel.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a panel.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The snap together connection of claim 7 wherein ~~panels~~ are said panel is substantially the same size and shape.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 3 wherein at least one element is a selected from the group consisting of a metal frame, a wood frame, a rattan frame, a rattan grid, a wicker grid, a wicker frame, a metal sheet, cardboard, foam, fiberboard, laminate, wood and a metal grid panel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A snap together panel connection system comprising:

a first panel and a second panel each with an edge and two corners:

a latch and a catch located near each corner, each said catch with deformable slot walls being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each said latch with an enlarged head extending, located near each corner, wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch.

a straight connector with one latch and one catch, each said catch with deformable slot walls and each said latch with an enlarged head extending, whereby through which the latch of the first panel is snapped into the catch of the straight connector and the latch of the straight connector is snapped into the catch of the second panel,

through which said straight connector is a bridge between panels.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The connection system of claim 10 further comprising at least one alignment stop to limit sliding movement of a snapped together latch and catch.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A snap together connection comprising:

two elements each connected to at least two panel covers, each panel cover having a latch and a catch, each catch with a deformable slot walls being substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back and each ~~catch~~ latch with an enlarged head; wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch; and

a straight connector ~~connectors~~ having at least a latch and a catch, each said catch with a deformable slot walls and each said catch with an enlarged head,

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~~whereby through which~~ a straight connector forms a bridge between the panel covers, ~~the two elements connecting a latch on one element to a catch on the other element.~~

Claim 13 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are panels.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The snap together connection of claim 12 wherein the elements are frames.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A snap together arrangement comprising a substantially straight component formed by two panels connected in-line with straight connectors.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The snap together arrangement of claim 15 wherein:

Each panel has at least two panel covers, each a catch with deformable slot walls and each a latch with an enlarged head extending, along one edge;

The straight connectors each have a catch with deformable slot walls and a latch with an enlarged head extending; whereby the latches and catches of the straight connectors snap into corresponding latches and catches of the two panels thereby affixing the two panels in-line.